

DEFINITIONS

science fiction

- fiction based on imagined future scientific or technological advances and major social or environmental changes, frequently portraying space or time travel and life on other planets.

u·t·o·p·i·a

- an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. The word was first used in the book *Utopia* (1516) by Sir Thomas More.
- an imaginary and indefinitely remote place
- *often capitalized* : a place of ideal perfection especially in laws, government, and social conditions
- an impractical scheme for social improvement

dys·t·o·p·i·a

- an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one....
- It is the **opposite of utopia**. It is a literary sub-genre of science fiction that **focuses on society**; either oppressive order and control (totalitarianism) or its complete breakdown (anarchy & revolution). The role of advanced technology is an element used for control that leads to disastrous results for people and the environment.

NOTE:

fan·ta·sy [in contrast to Sci-Fi]

- is a genre of fiction that uses magic or other supernatural elements as a main plot element, theme, or setting. Many works within the genre take place in imaginary worlds where magic and magical creatures are common.
- Examples: Harry Potter series, Twilight, Lord of the Rings,

Activity #1:

On the card provided, list on the front side as many examples of science fiction film or literature.

Discuss & Circle the best examples of utopia and dystopia (and put a “u” or a “d” to describe it.)

NEXT: We will discuss as a class some of the best of the best examples (and watch a few of the trailers)

As we explore examples of Dystopia, keep in mind that **utopia and dystopia are OFTEN different sides of the same coin.** For example, Dystopia, being an opposite of Utopia suggests that there is a **UTOPIA** to start with.

The GIVER is a perfect example because the foundation of the society is considered a “utopia” but if you dig deeper, you learn that it is really not a utopia, but in fact a dystopian society that at its foundation is about oppressive order and control (totalitarianism) or its complete breakdown (anarchy & revolution). The role of advanced technology is an element used for control that leads to potentially disastrous results for people and the environment.

The UGLIES is another very popular book (that has not yet been made into a film) but is founded on the same basic idea... of a perfect world... where teens have to go through plastic surgeries in order to achieve a “perfect” look.

OTHER ASPECTS of Dystopian worlds will definitely not be a comedy or lighthearted...because there is a **clear and prominent role that technology plays** in a disastrous outcome for humanity.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS of DYSTOPIAN

“Utopia-Dystopia” Contrast of a perfect world, versus the secret That actually it is a dystopia (oppressive order and control (totalitarianism) or its complete breakdown (anarchy & revolution)).

Accidental Dystopia.... oops!

When Technology goes **WRONG!**

Apocalypse, Doomsday, End of world scenario where technology plays some sort of role in the downfall of society.